

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

May 1, 2008

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration
2125 Park Boulevard MS39
San Diego, CA 92101-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jennifer Ayala
Laurie Burgett (Arr 6:10)
Jerelyn Dilno (Arr 5:42)
Vicki Granowitz
Mick Hager
Andrew Kahng
David Kinney (Arr 5:42)
Mike McDowell
Michael Singleton
Donald Steele

Members Absent

Staff Present

Kathleen Hasenauer
Susan Lowery-Mendoza
Bruce Martinez

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Granowitz called the meeting to order at 5:37 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 6, 2008 MEETING
(AYALA /SINGLETON 6-0-1) ABSTENTION- HAGER**

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

NON AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlotte Tenney of the San Diego Earth Club, and the Public Trees for Health reported that there is a potential to raise funds for infrastructure development for agencies that want to become a carbon offset provider. This is an innovative way to raise funds through The World Bank Carbon Finance Unit. Ms. Tenney provided supporting documents for this program.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Vicki Granowitz reported that she attended the Park and Recreation Budget review for Fiscal Year 2009 in City Council Chambers. Ms. Granowitz

stated that if the proposed budget cuts to Balboa Park Special Events staff are approved then the number of special events in the park should also be reduced to mitigate impacts. Full cost recovery of events should be implemented along with a moratorium for any new or expanded Special Events.

STAFF REPORT

Jeffery Tom thanked the Friends of Balboa Park and Vicki Granowitz for attending and speaking at the City Council Budget hearing.

Jeffery reported that the Mingei International Museum is celebrating their 30th Anniversary. On May 5, City Council Member Atkins and Mayor Sanders will be attending a press conference hosted by The San Diego Foundation. The 9:30 A.M. event is at the Bea Evenson Fountain.

On April 24, Council Member Atkins hosted the 2008 State of the District at the War Memorial Building. Jeffery thanked the Mayor for funding the repairs to two parking lots in Balboa Park.

Kathleen Hasenauer, Deputy Director reported that the Park and Recreation Board wrote a letter regarding the proposed FY 2009 Park and Recreation Budget.

The City Council budget hearing on April 30 was well attended by community members who voiced concerns on the proposed 2009 Park and Recreation Budget.

Susan Lowery-Mendoza, Facilities and Special Events District Manager reported that Earth Fair was held on Sunday, April 20 with approximately 300 exhibitors and record attendance. The Committee discussed the high attendance, damage to facilities and the desire to have the organizer return to the Committee to address their concerns.

The Senior Lounge at the Casa del Prado was renovated. The Balboa Park Club Ballroom floor was refinished in April. The Redwood Bridge Club is being re-roofed. The Activity Center will be closed on Monday, May 12 until 5:00 P.M. in order to repair the electrical system damaged by an outage in April.

Bruce Martinez, Operations District Manager reported that the over height vehicle sensors for the San Diego Museum of Man pedestrian bridge have been installed and are operational.

City staff met with the contractor for the Redwood Bridge Club shuffleboard court removal project. Staff identified issues along with potential concerns. The project is scheduled to begin within a couple of weeks.

The sign and molds for the Balboa Park Trail Sixth Avenue and Upas Street gateway map have been ordered. The signs will be constructed out of fiberglass with no corrosive materials. The molds will be used by the House of Hospitality for their two signs and can be used by other entities in the park. The goal was to

create a more durable sign that was easier and less expensive to reproduce. All signs associated with the Sixth Avenue and Upas Street gateway should be in place by mid summer.

The Federal Building and Upper Inspiration Point Parking lots have been repaired and an asphalt overlay was applied. The Spreckles Organ Pavilion Parking lot, Pan-American Roads and Balboa Drive will have repairs made and a slurry seal applied.

Recently increased traffic congestion in the Plaza de Panama has been noted. Staff will assess the situation then meet with the stakeholders to mitigate the situation through possible signage and Plaza de Panama travel configurations

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. Balboa Park Study

Vicki Granowitz discussed the proposed schedule and topics of future meetings. Vicki stated that the May 15 meeting topic will be Joint Powers of Authority. Richard G. Little of the Keston Institute will be making a presentation. Vicki opened the meeting up for public comments about the study.

Public Comments

- Focus needs to remain on the children of San Diego and keeping fees minimal or free of charge to children.
- The range of topics that the Ad Hoc Committee has scheduled provides a great opportunity to learn.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Proposed Fiscal Year 2009 Park & Rec. Budget- Stacey LoMedico Park & Recreation Director

Ms. LoMedico presented a Power Point overview of the proposed FY 2009 Park & Recreation Budget as it pertains to General Fund allocations. She stated that the proposed budget results in a reduction of 58.15 positions in the Department, some of which are vacant. Positions proposed for elimination were identified. Positions specific to Balboa Park include a District Manager, an Area Manager, a Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and two and a half Grounds Maintenance Worker II. Capital Improvement Projects, Environmental Growth Fund and Transit Occupancy Tax (TOT) were discussed.

Committee Members Comments

- Onetime costs for new positions reflect greater allocations amount for the first year of the position.

- The Committee should draft a letter to the Mayor requesting reconsideration of cuts to the department.
- TOT fund increase should result in an increase to Park and Recreation Department reimbursement.
- TOT funding allocations were discussed.
- Budget reductions in the Park and Recreation Department are not comparable with other departments' reductions.
- Retaining the Assistant Director while and other positions are being eliminated was questioned.
- Performance measures show a significant cut in volunteers.
- User fees and demands for the Park do not cover operations costs. These issues need to be taken into consideration as the Governance study moves forward.
- Mission Bay Improvements Fund was discussed. A request was made for documents relating to the fund.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY TO SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE MAYOR INDICATING THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE DOES NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSED FY 2009 BUDGET CUTS TO BALBOA PARK OF THE DISTRICT MANAGER, AREA MANAGER, AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE STAFF. ALSO THAT REVENUE SOURCES SUCH AS THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROWTH FUND, FULL COST RECOVERY FEES FOR EVENT PERMITS, AND TRANSIT OCCUPANCY TAX UNPROJECTED EXCESS REVENUES SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. (KINNEY/DILNO 10-0)

Special Events

301. Cool Globes Public Art Exhibit- Rita Alpert discussed the environmental art exhibit featuring approximately thirty, five foot free-standing globes on concrete pedestals that were designed by various artists from around the world. The proposal is to place the globes in six different areas of Balboa Park including the Moreton Bay Fig Lawn, El Prado walkway, Cascades, and the Botanical Building Lawns. The duration of the exhibit is from the beginning of October, 2008 to the middle of November, 2008.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED COOL GLOBES ART EXHIBIT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LOCATION OF THE GLOBES MUST BE APPROVED BY STAFF AND THAT A FOLLOW UP STATUS REPORT BE GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE EXHIBIT. (STEELE/ AYALA 8-0-1) ABSTENTION - HAGER. (McDowell not present for the vote)

302. Portico Premier Fundraising Party- Dr. Mari Lyn Salvador Executive Director of the San Diego Museum of Man presented Portico Premier a private outdoor reception, cocktail party and silent auction to be held in the California Quadrangle and El Prado in front of the San Diego Museum of Man. The proposal plan is to permit the California Quadrangle for a cocktail reception, silent auction and entertainment as well as to close El Prado to all vehicular traffic during the event to allow guest access between the outdoor venue and Museum. Portico Premier is scheduled for Saturday, August, 16, 2008 from 3:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. with an estimated attendance of 350 guests.

Committee Member Comments

- The rationale for the date selected during the summer moratorium was questioned.
- Closing El Prado to vehicular traffic was a concern to all.
- The summer moratorium policy is very important.
- If the entire event were hosted inside the Museum the parking impacts would be the same.

MSC IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND FAILED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE PORTICO PREMIER FUNDRAISING PARTY REQUESTED FOR THE CALIFORNIA QUADRANGLE DURING THE SUMMER MORATORIUM. (HAGER/MCDOWELL) 4-4-2 OPPOSED AYALA, BURGETT, GRANOWITZ, SINGLETON. ABSTENTIONS – DILNO AND KAHNG.

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

601. Land-Use and Policy – None
602. Balboa Park West Advisory Group- Alyssa Wolven reported that the next BPWAG meeting will be held on May 14 at the Redwood Bridge Club and the new email address for the Balboa Park West Advisory Group is BPWAG.org. The Balboa Park Trust press conference will be held on May 5 at 9:30 A.M. in front of the Bea Evenson Fountain.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORT

David Kinney announced that the Mingie International Museum will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary on Monday and Tuesday, May 5 and 6.

Jennifer Ayala reported that the Children's Museum will open on Sunday, May 4. The Center City Development Corporation has slated the Park Boulevard. and Harbor Drive Pedestrian bridge as a Consent Item for their May 2008 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Granowitz adjourned the meeting at 9:02 P.M.

Next Balboa Park Study Meeting:

Thursday, May 15, 2008
5:30 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, June 5, 2008
5:30 P.M.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Hasenauer

